

THE 'SANCY' DIAMOND

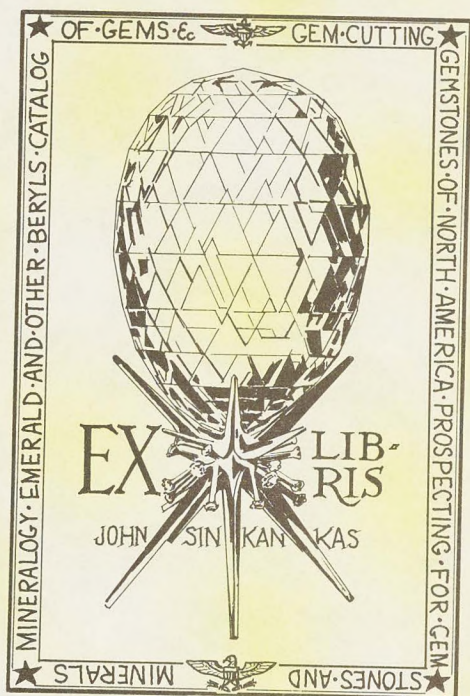


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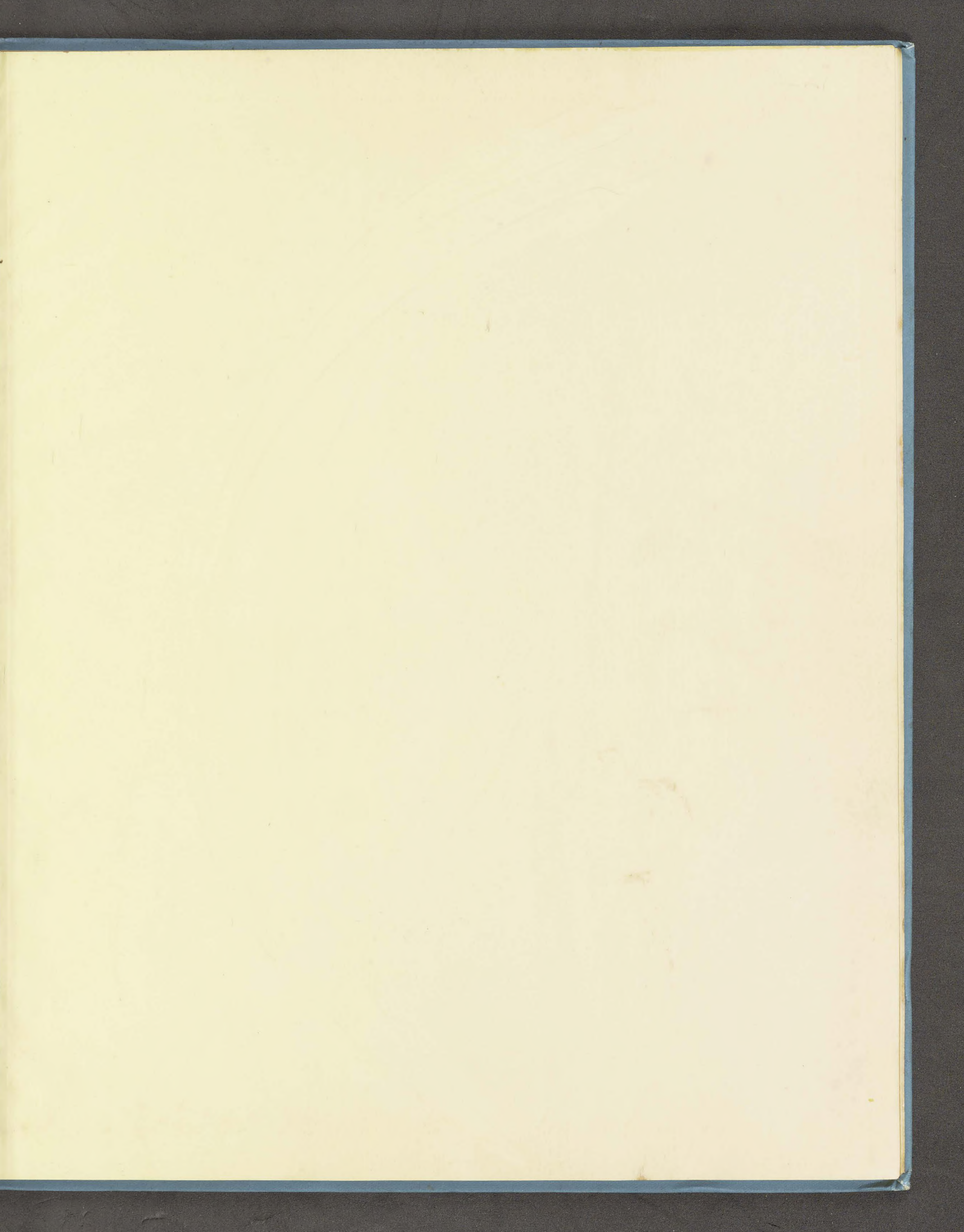
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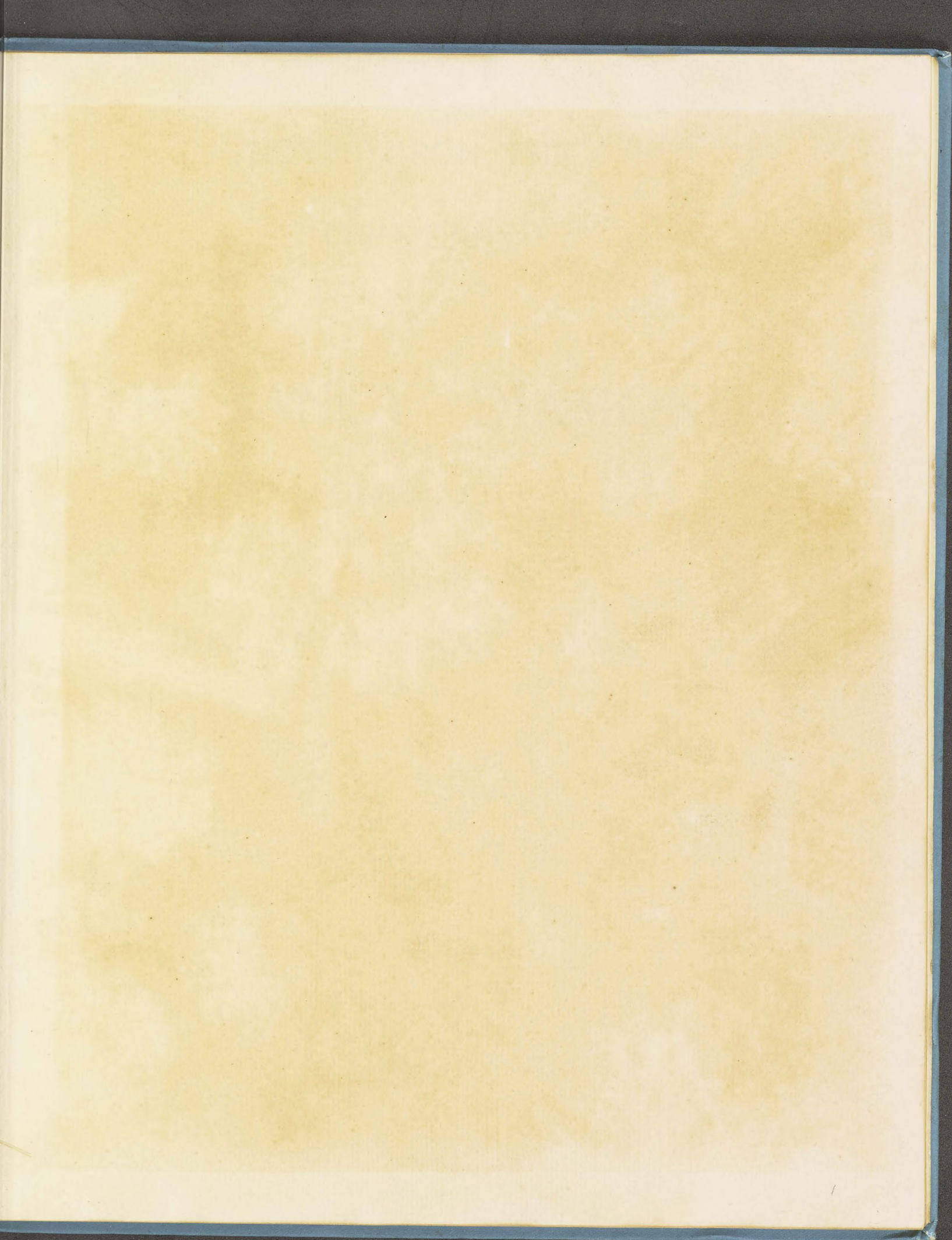
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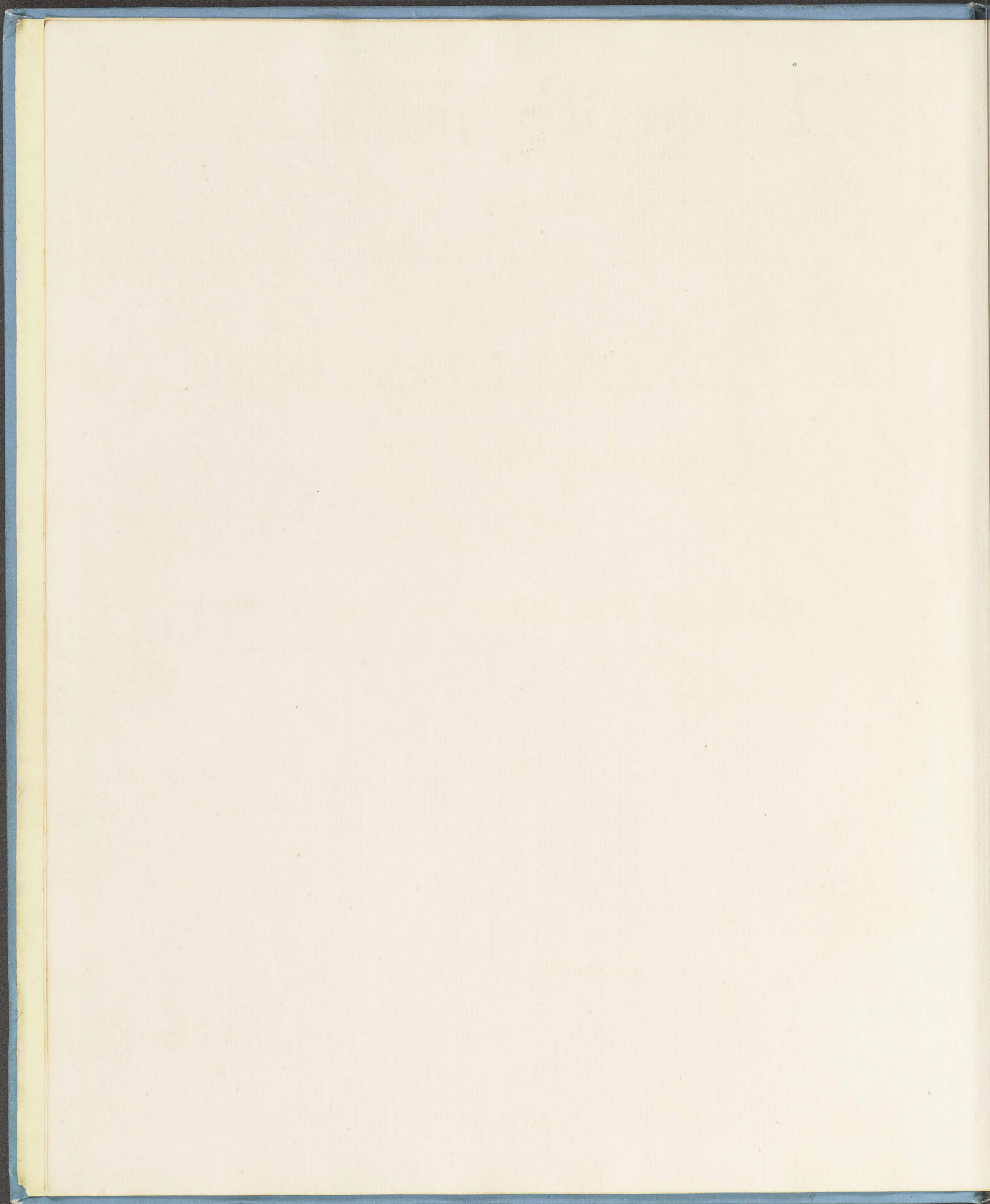














NOTES UPON THE  
OWNERS  
OF  
THE 'SANCY' DIAMOND  
COLLECTED  
BY  
WILLIAM WALDORF ASTOR

LONDON

1893



NOTES UPON THE

OWNERS

# THE 'SANCY' DIAMOND

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WILLIAM WALDORE ASTOR

LONDON

1895



## CHARLES THE BOLD.

1433—1477.



HE Sancy diamond has been associated with the fortunes of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, who is said to have worn it in his hat either at the battle of Morat, Nancy, or Granson, in 1476. It was found on the field by a Swiss soldier, who sold it to a priest for a florin, who resold it for three francs. Nicolas Harlai bought it of Don Antonio, Prior of Crats. One of the Fugger family made a drawing of the jewel, with a written description, and these were published by Lambecius in his "Bibliotheca Cæsarea."







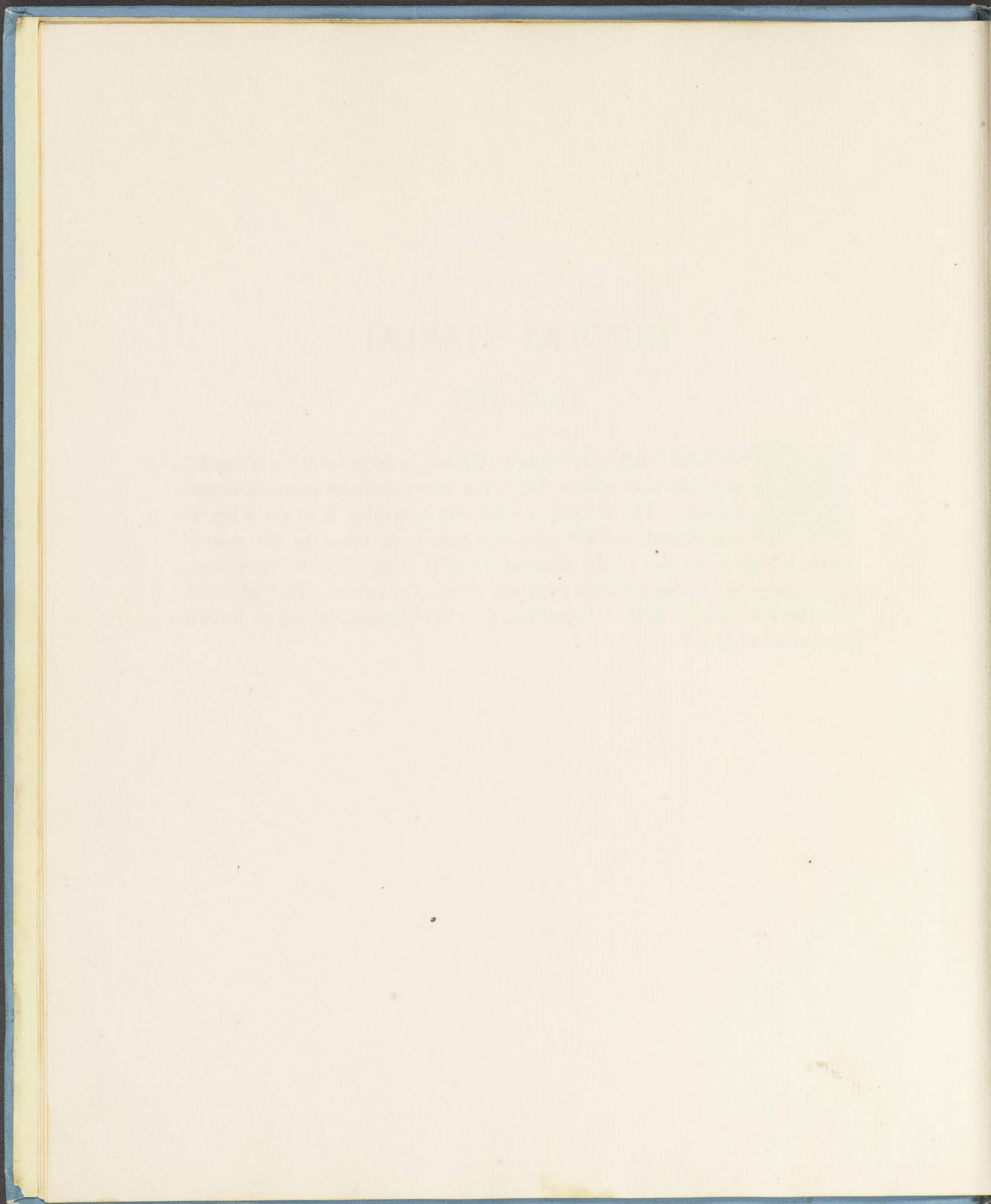
## NICOLAS HARLAI.

1546—1629.



NICOLAS HARLAI, Seigneur de Sancy, treasurer of King Henry IV., is said to have advanced it to that monarch under romantic circumstances. The messenger who was conveying it to the King was assassinated, and the gem was afterwards found in his stomach. There is little doubt that Harlai afterwards sold it to the British Crown during his residence in London between 1590 and 1600. Commynes in his "Memoirs" describes the diamond as the "largest one then in the world, having an immense pearl attached to it."







## ELIZABETH.

1533—1603.



AS the transfer of the jewel was effected during Nicholas Harlai's residence at the English Court, it must have been in the possession of the English Crown during some part of the long and illustrious reign of Elizabeth. We yet seek a record which will point to the use made of the "Sancy" by the Virgin and Scholar Queen.



ELIZABETH

1517-1603

The first of the Tudor monarchs, Elizabeth I, was born on 7 September 1533 at Greenwich Palace, London. She was the only daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. Her reign, which lasted from 1558 to 1603, was a period of great significance in English history. It was during her reign that England became a Protestant nation, and she is remembered for her role in the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588. Elizabeth I is also known for her patronage of the arts and her support of the English Renaissance.



## JAMES I., CHARLES I.

1566—1625. 1600—1649.



SOON after the accession of James I., the "Inventory of the Jewels in the Tower of London," March 22, 1605, thus describes the "Mirror of Great Britain," a famous crown jewel. "A greate and ryche jewell of golde, called the 'Myrror of Greate Brytayne,' conteyninge one verie fayre table dyamonde, one verye fayre table rubye, twoe other lardge dyamondes, cut lozengewyse, the one of them called the 'Stone of the letter H. of Scotlande,' garnyshed wyth smalle dyamondes, twoe rounde perles, fixed, and one fayre dyamonde, cutt in fawcettis, bought of Sauncey."—*Inventories of the Treasury of the Exchequer*, vol. ii., p. 305. The gem remained in the possession of the English Crown during the reign of Charles I. and possibly later.



JAMES J. CHARLES

1858-1910

James J. Charles was born in the town of  
Hartford, Conn., on the 12th of June, 1858.  
He was educated in the common schools of his  
native town, and at the Hartford Academy.  
He was a member of the Hartford High School  
and the Hartford College of Arts and Sciences.  
He was a member of the Hartford Club and the  
Hartford Athletic Club. He was a member of  
the Hartford Y. M. C. A. and the Hartford  
N. Y. C. A. He was a member of the Hartford  
N. Y. C. A. and the Hartford N. Y. C. A.



## CARDINAL MAZARIN.

1602—1661.



THE diamond was acquired by Cardinal Mazarin in 1658, and it proved the most important specimen of that famous collection of diamonds known as "The Mazarins." It may be mentioned that to Cardinal Mazarin is attributed the invention of the perfect form of the brilliant, and that he had twelve large diamonds of the French Crown cut into this shape, which has ever since been acknowledged the best possible form for exhibiting the beautiful optical properties of the stone.







## QUEEN HENRIETTA MARIA.

1609—1669.



THE Dowager Queen, Henrietta Maria, possessed it, for Robert de Berquem in his work "*Les Merveilles des Indes*," 1669, speaking of diamonds, says: "There are some of extraordinary size and perfection. The present queen of England has the one brought by the late M. de Sancy from his Embassy in the Levant." It is said that the queen, while in exile, presented the diamond to Somerset, Earl of Worcester, as appears from the following extract from a letter of the Queen Dowager: "We, Henrietta Maria, of Bourbon, Queen of Great Britain, have by command of our much honoured lord and master, the King, caused to be handed to our dear and well-beloved cousin, Edward Somerset, Count and Earl of Worcester, a ruby necklace, containing ten large rubies and 160 pearls set and strung together in gold."



# QUEEN HENRIETTA MARIA

1609-1669

The younger Queen Henrietta Maria, consort of Charles I. in England, is the subject of this work. "The Henrietta Maria" is a biography of the queen, written by a Frenchman, and published in 1669. The queen was born in France, and was the daughter of Henry IV. and Marie de' Medici. She was married to Charles I. in 1625, and was the mother of Charles II. and James II. The queen was a devoted Catholic, and was the patroness of the Catholic Church in England. She was also a patroness of the arts, and was the founder of the Hospital of St. James. The queen was executed by beheading in 1649, during the English Civil War.



# LOUIS XIV.

1638—1715.



LOUIS XIV. purchased the Sancy for £25,000 about 1695.



PLATE XIV

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3



## LOUIS XV.

1710—1774.



FROM the "Grande Monarque" the "Sancy" passed to his successor Louis XV., who wore it as a hat ornament at his coronation. It also appears among the French Crown jewels in the Inventory of 1791, but was stolen the following year with other valuables at the robbery of the Garde Meuble.



LOUIS XV

1710-1774

LOUIS XV, the "Favorable Monarch," reigned in France from 1710 to 1774. He was the grandson of Louis XIV and was known for his efforts to reform the French government and to promote the arts and sciences. His reign was marked by the Seven Years' War (1756-1763) and the beginning of the French Revolution (1789).



## MARIE LECKZINSKA.

1703—1768.



HE Queen of Louis XV. had a necklace mounted in 1753 to which the Sancy was attached as a pendant, and she wore this ornament at all court ceremonies during the remainder of her life.







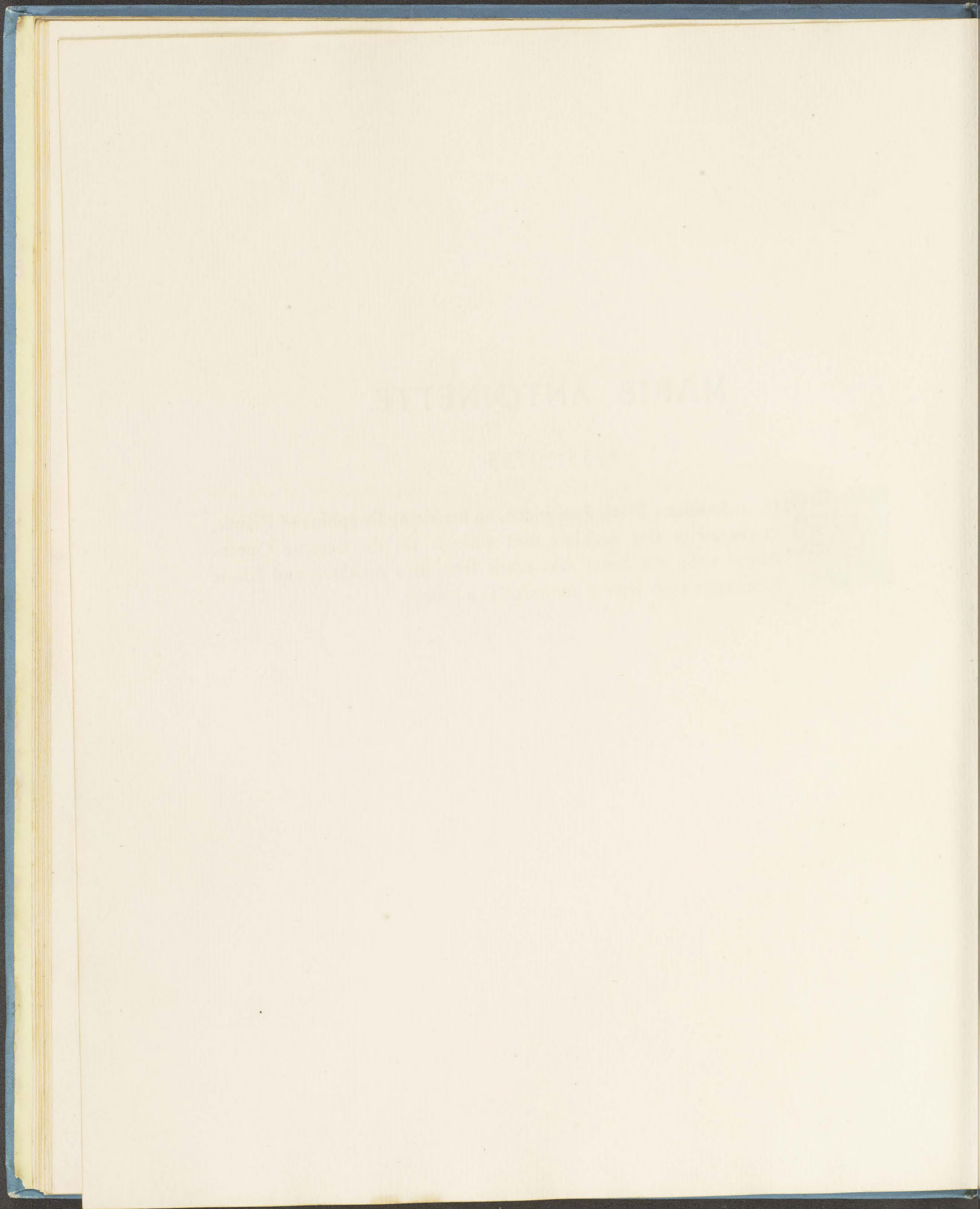
## MARIE ANTOINETTE.

1755—1793.



THE unfortunate Marie Antoinette, on becoming Dauphine of France, succeeded to this necklace and wore it till she became Queen. About 1789 the Sancy was taken from this necklace, and Marie Antoinette then wore it mounted as a brooch.







## CHARLES IV.

1748—1819.



It is said that the "Sancy" came into the possession of the widow of Charles IV. of Spain, who gave it to the notorious Prince of Peace Godoi.



# CHARLES IV.

1795-1808

It is not the only one of the kind  
in Charles IV. the first of the series  
of the series.



## GODOI, PRINCE DE LA PAIX.

1767—1851.



FTER forming a part of the treasure of Charles IV., the Sancy was given to Godoi, Prince de la Paix, whose son offered it for sale to Louis XVIII. in 1822, but the King declined the purchase, and he afterwards, in 1828, sold it to Prince Demidoff for 600,000 francs.



# GODOL PRINCE DE LA PAIX


1797-1817

Godol, Prince de la Paix, was born on the 17th of January 1797, at Paris, France. He was the son of the Duke of Orleans, and was educated at the College of St. Louis. He was a member of the Académie des Sciences, and was also a member of the Académie des Beaux-Arts. He was a friend of Napoleon Bonaparte, and was one of the most influential men of his time. He died on the 17th of March 1817, at Paris, France.



## PRINCE DEMIDOFF.

1798—1840.

 PRINCE DEMIDOFF purchased the "Sancy" about 1828 from a French merchant. M. Levrat, Director of the Society of Mines and Forges of the Grisons, Switzerland, agreed to buy the gem for £24,000, but a dispute having arisen as to its value, led to the celebrated trial between Prince Demidoff and M. Levrat, judgment being given in favour of the former on June 1, 1832.



# PRINCE DEMIDOFF


1798-1845

PRINCE DEMIDOFF, Count of the Empire, was born at  
St. Petersburg, Russia, on the 15th of May, 1798.  
He was the son of the Countess Demidoff, and of  
the Baron de Demidoff, a Russian nobleman, who  
was a distinguished general in the Russian army.  
He was educated at the University of St. Petersburg,  
and afterwards at the University of Göttingen, where  
he spent two years.



## SIR JAMSETJEE JEEJEEBHOY.

1783—1859.

IR JAMSETJEE JEEJEEBHOY purchased the "Sancy" from the Demidoff family in February, 1865. Two years later it was exhibited in the case of MM. Bapst at the Paris Universal Exhibition. In the account of the Prince of Wales' Tour in India the Maharajah of Puttiali is said to have worn the "Great Sancy" as a pendant at the Grand Durbar.



# SIR JAMSETTEE JEELBHOY

1831-1894

SIR JAMSETTEE JEELBHOY, born in Bombay, India, was a prominent merchant and philanthropist. He was the founder of the Tata Steel Works in India, and his family's wealth was used to establish educational institutions and hospitals. He died in London, England, in 1894.



## MARY ASTOR.



HIS last named owner being dead, this most famous jewel—the eighth in order of weight, but perhaps of all the most historic—came again into the market in 1892, and was purchased for his wife by the Honourable William Waldorf Astor (great grandson of John Jacob Astor). Mr. Astor was United States Minister to Italy from 1882-1885, and served a term in the New York State Senate. He married, June 6, 1878, Mary, daughter of James W. Paul, Esq., of Philadelphia, U.S.A.



ASTOR

The first of the Astor family to settle in New York was John Astor, who arrived in 1793. He was a successful merchant and financier, and his wealth allowed him to establish the Astor Library, which later became the New York Public Library. His son, William Astor, also a successful merchant, continued the family tradition of philanthropy and established the William Astor Library. The Astor family's contributions to the city of New York are well-known and their legacy is still felt today.



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